

## Carol Coles

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**From:** Carol Coles  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2010 2:19 PM  
**To:** \*everyone; \_Council Members; Andy Rieger; Denise Holder; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; KGOU; KOCO; KOKH; Ktok; KTOK; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily  
**Subject:** School Zone Safety

City of Norman  
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Norman Public Schools will be back in session on Thursday, August 19, and the Norman Police Department encourages citizens to get back in the habit of slowing down around schools and watching out for young pedestrians and bicyclists. Police will place an emphasis on school zones and will monitor them to help ensure compliance. Citations for school zone violations carry a fine of \$200.00 plus court costs.

Motorists should also watch for school busses stopped for loading or unloading with their flashing red lights activated. Driving in either direction past a school bus that is stopped with the red lights activated is unlawful, and is extremely dangerous to children who are entering or leaving the bus.

If they haven't already done so, now is also a good time for parents to review traffic and personal safety basics with their young students. Children should be reminded to:

- Always walk on sidewalks when they are available, or if there is no sidewalk, on the shoulder or roadway edge facing traffic. Cross the street only at the corner or at a marked crosswalk. Look both ways before crossing, and avoid crossing the street from between parked vehicles, as the parked cars may block the motorist's and the child's view of each other.
- If children will be riding their bikes to school, they should be reminded that they are subject to the same traffic laws as a motor vehicle, including riding with traffic on the right side of the roadway, as near the right edge as possible. All bicyclists younger than 18 years of age are required to wear an approved bicycle helmet. Now would also be a good time to inspect bicycles to ensure that the brakes, tires, and other essential equipment are properly adjusted and in good repair.
- If a child will be walking or biking to a new school this year, the parent should walk or bike with the child the first time or during the weekend prior to the first day. This will ensure that the child knows the way, and allow the parent to detect any potential hazards that the child may not recognize.
- Remind children of the dangers of approaching or going with anyone they don't know, regardless of the reason given by the stranger.

Parents who drive their children to school are reminded to drop off and pick up only at the locations designated by their child's school. Parents who fail to do so may endanger their child by putting them afoot in the wrong location, and frequently cause traffic jams by going against the procedure established by school officials.

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